

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 08362 051533Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 ACDA-12 /084 W
-----027141 060138Z /61

R 051522Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8280
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS BONN 08362

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GW, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT: PUBLIC OPINION POLL

1. ON THE EVE OF BREZHNEV'S ARRIVAL HERE, GERMANY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION MAGAZINE, DER STERN, CARRIED A PUBLIC OPINION POLL WHICH DEPICTS THE GERMANS AS SKEPTICAL THAT THE VISIT WILL BE A SUCCESS AND LESS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE SOVIET LEADER THAN WAS THE CASE IN 1973 (WHEN BREZHNEV LAST VISITED THE FRG, AND WHEN SIMILAR QUESTIONS WERE ASKED OF GERMAN CITIZENS) THE POLL ALSO SHOWS THAT THE GERMAN PREFERENCE FOR COOPERATION WITH THE US OVER THE USSR HAS INCREASED SINCE 1973 THOUGH THE GERMANS ARE NOW MORE CONVINCED OF SOVIET SINCERITY ON DETENTE. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS FOLLOWS (1973 FIGURES IN PARENTHESIS):

2. OF THOSE POLLED, 43 PERCENT (28 PERCENT) THOUGHT THE VISIT "WOULD BRING NO RESULTS" AND ONLY 40 PERCENT (51 PERCENT) THOUGHT IT WOULD BE "GOOD AND USEFUL." 27 PERCENT (32 PERCENT) DESCRIBED BREZHNEV IN POSITIVE TERMS WHILE 49 PERCENT (26 PERCENT) THOUGHT OF HIM AS
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"UNSYMPATHETIC."

3. ONLY 3 PERCENT (3 PERCENT) WANTED TO COOPERATE CLOSER WITH THE SOVIET UNION THAN WITH THE US, WHILE 50 PERCENT (36 PERCENT) CALLED FOR CLOSER COOPERATION WITH WASHINGTON THAN WITH MOSCOW. 36 PERCENT (54 PERCENT) OF THOSE POLLED WANTED TO WORK EQUALLY CLOSE

WITH BOTH COUNTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, 53 PERCENT
(62 PERCENT) THOUGHT THE SOVIETS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF
GERMANY'S DESIRE FOR DETENTE WHILE 22 PERCENT
(19 PERCENT) THOUGHT THE SOVIETS WERE SERIOUSLY
INTERESTED IN DETENTE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN08362
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780193-0218
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780590/aaaaczca.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c1e0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2785744
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV VISIT: PUBLIC OPINION POLL
TAGS: PEPR, GE, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c1e0cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014